

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An elongated implantable medical electrical lead for electrically stimulating a human heart or sensing electrical signals originating therefrom, comprising:

- (a) a lead body having proximal and distal sections;
- (b) at least one electrode for sensing or electrically stimulating the heart;
- (c) a proximal end comprising an electrical connector, the electrical connector being contiguous with the distal section of the lead body;
- (d) a distal end contiguous with the distal section of the lead body;
- (e) at least one electrical conductor having proximal and distal ends, the distal end of the conductor being operatively connected to the at least one electrode, the proximal end of the conductor being operatively connected to the electrical connector;

wherein the distal section of the lead body comprises at least first and second segments, the first segment having a bending stiffness S_{bs} which exceeds the bending stiffness S_{bf} of the second segment, the first and second segments being configured and dimensioned to impart a distally directed force to the distal end of the lead when the first and second segments are subjected to a bending moment resulting in a sufficient curvature of the distal section of the lead body.

2-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body comprises a third segment having a bending stiffness which exceeds the bending stiffness of the second segment, the second segment being disposed between the first and third segments.

14. (Original) The medical electrical lead of claim 1, wherein the distal section of the lead body comprises a third segment having a bending stiffness which is less than the bending stiffness of the first segment, the first segment being disposed between the second and third segments.

15-121. (Cancelled)